Olive green uniform used by private security agencies and others

*244. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether army authorities have been writing to police authorities to ban the use of olive green uniforms by private security agencies in Delhi and elsewhere;

(b) whether certain private security agencies have started using some accessories attached to the military uniforms;

(c) whether uniforms and above accessories are freely available in Azad Market in Delhi;

(d) whether militants and other unscrupulous elements made use of the uniform items and indulged in nefarius activities; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to check the sale of these uniform items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) The Government have been alive to the security hazards arising out of misuse of uniforms resembling that of the armed or paramilitary forces. Instances where militants/terrorists have used uniforms similar to that of the armed/paramilitary forces have also been reported from time to time. The Ministry of Defence have also raised concerns in this regard.

This Ministry has accordingly been advising the State Governments on the need to take action under the relevant provisions of law against persons who use uniforms similar to the uniforms worn by the military/paramilitary forces.

Provision exist under section 140,170, 171 and 416 of the IPC and section 6 of the Official Secrets Act for the prosecution of those who use uniforms resembling that of the armed forces/paramilitary forces. The proposed Private Security Guards and Agencies Regulation Bill, 1994 which is under consideration in the Rajya Sabha also has provisions providing for the prosecution of private security guards who wear uniforms resembling that army/paramilitary forces.

No shops selling army uniforms and other accessories have been

reported to be located at Azad Market in Delhi. However, some shops in Azad Market area are reported to be selling disposed off articles/used uniforms of the army green colour for the last many years.

Vishakhapatnam and Ramagundam Thermal Power Projects

*245. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of private sector Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project and Ramagundam Thermal Power Project in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

(b) by when these project will start power generation; and

(c) how the power generated by these units will be utilized in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1 US$ = Rs. 35.00). Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the project on August 19, 1998. The validity of the counter guarantee was extended on two occasions, up to February 18, 2000 and again up to August 18, 2000. The validity of the counter guarantee has not been extended beyond August 18, 2000. The promoters of the project have still not achieved financial closure and construction work on the project is yet to commence.

M/s. HNPCL have submitted the firm financial package to Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP)/Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) in the first week of November 1999. The firms financial package is presently under examination of GoAP/APTRANSCO. GoAP have informed that they are negotiating a reduction of capital cost of the project as required under the revised procedure for extension of counter guarantee.